

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 20, 21, and 23 through 26 are pending, with Claims 20, 25, and 26 being independent. Claims 20, 25, and 26 have been amended.

The title was objected to. All objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the title in a manner earnestly believed to avoid the grounds of objection.

Claims 20, 21, and 23 through 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103 over newly-cited U.S. Patent No. 5,220,674 (Morgan, et al.), taken alone or in combination with previously-cited U.S. Patent Nos. 5,644,405 (Sato) and 5,485,246 (Hayashi, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 20, 25, and 26 variously recite, *inter alia*, managing whether status information indicating the status of the data communication apparatus has been transmitted after the status, as monitored, has been changed, in combination with causing transmission, in response to the additional command, of such status information that, as managed, has not been transmitted.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that none of Morgan, et al., Sato, and Hayashi, et al., even in the proposed combinations, assuming, *arguendo*, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 20, 25, and 26.

Applicants respectfully submit that Morgan, et al. shows, e.g., that local area print server 10 can respond to status queries (e.g., col. 7, lines 30-34). However, Applicants respectfully submit that Morgan, et al. is silent at least as regards the above-discussed claimed features.

Applicants also respectfully submit that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features.

It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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